

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the following remarks. Claims 15 and 17-29 remain pending in the case. Claims 15-18, 21, 22 and 26-30 are rejected. Claims 19, 20 and 23-25 are objected to. Claims 16 and 30 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 15, 17-19, 21 and 26-29 are amended herein. No new matter has been added.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 19, 20 and 23-25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims. Applicant has amended Claim 19 herein to include the limitations of independent Claim 16.

DRAWINGS

The Figure 1 is objected to because Figure 1 is not designated by a legend such as –Prior Art–. Formal drawings are submitted herewith, designating Figure 1 with the legend –Prior Art–.

Furthermore, the drawings are objected to because the Examiner assert that the do not include reference sign 104. Applicants respectfully assert that Figure 1 does show reference sign 104. The formal drawings submitted herewith more clearly show reference sign 104 in Figure 1.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 18 is object to because of an informality. Claim 18 is amended, replacing "16" with "17" to correct this informality.

35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 30 is cancelled. Therefore, a discussion of the rejection of Claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is moot at this time

35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 15-17, 21, 22 and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,576,546 by Gilbert, et al., hereinafter the "Gilbert" reference. Applicants have amended Claim 19 to include the limitations of independent Claim 16. Claim 19 was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims. Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 19 is now allowable, and that a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is moot at this time. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 15, 17, 21, 22 and 26-29, which are dependent on independent Claim 19, are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilbert in view of United States Patent 6,051,858 by Uchida et al., hereinafter the "Uchida" reference. Claim 18 is dependent on independent Claim 19. Claim 19 was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 19 is now allowable, and that a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot at this time. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 18 which is dependent on independent Claim 19 is also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION


Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 15 and 17-29 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Please charge our deposit account No. 23-0085 for any unpaid fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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